

REPORT

ON

NATIVE PAPERS IN BENGAL

FOR THE

Week ending the 21st July 1900.

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REPORT

NATIVE PAPERS IN BRITAIN

Week ending the 21st July 1900

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I.—FOREIGN POLITICS.

The *Habul Mateen* [Calcutta] of the 9th July says that it is a regret that the Persians do not know their duty to their

HABUL MATEEN
July 9th, 1900.

The corruption of Persian officials. Government. They think that it is not their duty to pay any duty or tax. They also think that they are at perfect liberty to misappropriate or steal State property. The functionaries and *amla* of the State think it not unlawful to take bribe and illegal gratification from the subject-people. This state of things has created such an ill-feeling between the rulers and the ruled in Persia that neither feel any hesitation in defrauding the other. In fact it is the functionaries and *amla*, who are ruining Persia. For such a state of things the people are not to blame, because they are ignorant and see that the country is being impoverished, and that the troops that are kept for protecting the country from its enemies, are starving, and in some cases, earning their living by rendering menial service. They also see that they are being plundered and oppressed by the outlanders. All business which might bring wealth to their country is being encroached upon by their enemies. No one takes notice of the oppression to which they are being daily subjected, and their grievances are not redressed. Foreign officials do not hesitate to do them mischief in order to benefit themselves. In such cases of oppression, the oppressed are punished instead of being consoled.

2. The same paper says that a thorough-going reform of the Persian Government is indispensably necessary. The

HABUL MATEEN.

What the Persian Government should do.

Government should at first take a census of the people, and then survey the whole country, so that it may gain a knowledge of the character of the soil and form an idea of the amount of revenue it is capable of yielding to the State in kind or in cash. The jagir-holders, that is, those to whom land is granted on the condition that they should render some service or other to the Government, should be deprived of their lands and should be paid in coin for their services. The Government employes should be regularly paid. It very often happens that in consequence of extraordinary expenses the exchequer becomes empty. In such cases the jagir-holders do not pay a single farthing to the exchequer to meet the emergency. The Ottoman empire is sometimes seen to have struggled with such difficulties, but the people of that empire are all in sympathy with the Government and the difficulty, therefore, does not affect the empire in any way. Turkey has a standing army consisting of three crores of troops to defend her empire and she is rapidly advancing in education. She has imposed an educational tax upon her subjects to meet the educational expenditure, and she can boast of numerous schools and colleges. Even private schools and colleges are being started in Turkey. In fact frequent dismissals of functionaries is sure to bring about the weakness of a Government. A well-paid servant may be taken to task for dereliction of duties, but an unpaid one is free from all blame. A servant who knows that his employment will not last long is sure to fill his purse by illegal means.

3. The *Khulna* [Khulna] of the 12th July writes as follows:—

Supply of fodder for the Chinese expeditionary force.

News has been received that India will have to supply fodder, sufficient to last three months, for all horses and other animals which are accompanying the forces to China. This shows that the Imperial Government does not feel for India as it feels for England. The direst famine India has seen is raging and is threatening to spread. All Rajputana and Central India is without a blade of grass. Millions of cattle have died there for want of fodder, and the Government of India with all its efforts has not succeeded in procuring a sufficient supply of fodder to prevent further deaths among them. But while India herself is in such straits for fodder for her own cattle, she will have, by the order of the British Government, to supply fodder for the Chinese campaign. Had India been covered with verdure as before, she might have supplied the expeditionary force with fodder not for three months, but for the whole term of the campaign. But India is, to-day, an arid desert. There is no harm in milking a milch cow, but sucking the empty dugs of a cow which can yield no milk endangers its very life. If India is made to supply the Chinese expeditionary force with fodder for three months, there will not remain in India a single head of cattle living.

KHULNA,
July 12th, 1900.

SANJIVANI,
July 12th, 1900.

4. The *Sanjivani* [Calcutta] of the 12th July has the following:—

The future of the Chinese empire.

It was in an evil moment that China got involved in a war with Japan. That war has proved the ruin of China. Her misfortunes began on the day on which victorious Japan removed her outer mantle. Until lately, the whole of white Europe had looked upon the yellow Chinese empire with doubtful eyes. Only a few years ago a European statesman made the prediction that the downfallen Chinese empire would, at no distant date, rise up again, nay, that, strong in her new strength, she would establish her ascendancy over old and spent-up Europe, and that though the present was the day of wealth, prosperity and glory to the European, good luck in the near future was reserved for the yellow race, when China would control the fortunes of the whole world. Hardly has the echo of this prediction died away when the sound of the war-drum is heard in China. Slavery is now the only fate that seems to be in store for her. One could not, even in imagination, picture to oneself the possibility that the vast Chinese empire, which, in point of population, heads all the empires in the world, and which, in point of area, occupies a place next only to that held by the Russian or the British empire, would come so soon to be bound in chains of slavery and subjection. It was the Chinese who first manufactured the sort of paper on which this article is printed. It was the Chinese who first invented the printing press with whose aid this article is printed. It was the Chinese who first started the sort of newspaper in which this article is published. The first newspaper in the world was published in China many centuries before Rome was built. Gunpowder, which is being used to reduce the Chinese empire to ashes, was an invention of the Chinese themselves. When they made gunpowder the thought never crossed their minds that they were forging a weapon which would cause their own destruction. Even the existence of the powerful Chinese empire, the creator of some of the principal factors of modern civilisation and the favoured abode of ancient civilisation, is in serious peril. So wonderful is the course and movement of time!

How the peace-loving and liberal-minded Czar of Russia, who only the other day proclaimed, with a flourish of trumpets, his desire to establish peace in the world, who is said to have once taken a resolution to spurn his matchless throne and live a pauper's life, and who, even when a signal opportunity presented itself for invading Herat, prohibited the Cossack army assembled at the gate of that city from picking a quarrel with the British Government, then engrossed in the Boer war, has now made up his mind to declare war and thereby to deluge the earth with blood is a mystery which it is not certainly impossible to unravel. Japan, which is a new Power, has not yet been practically recognised as the equal of any European Power, and this war with China will be Japan's trial, and the world will see how honourably she can acquit herself in this test.

China, you are about to go, but do not think that this sad fate has overtaken you alone and no other. The revolutions of the wheel of fortune are inexorable and inevitable, and the utmost human effort and endeavour will be of no avail in arresting, impeding or deflecting them. Once look at India. To what a sad plight has the country of Asoka and Kaniksha, the country, which gave birth to Prithviraj, Pratap Sinha, Ranjit Sinha and Sivaji, been reduced! To what a sorry plight has India been reduced, the country, that is, which produced two such powerful and heroic races as the Sikh and the Mahratta. The heroism of the Sikhs, that product of the austere and persevering labours of Govinda Sinha, is always a subject of honourable mention in History. Who could be so bold as to sit in the heart of Cabul, the metropolis of fanatical Pathans, and to prohibit the Musalman's prescribed calls to prayer (*ajan*)? And yet such an order was actually issued by Hari Sinha, the Sikh hero. Hari Sinha's name really caused a shudder among the inhabitants of that city. The military prowess of the Mahrattas springing out of the heart-stirring principles preached by Madhavacharya has been warmly praised by the victor of Waterloo. When the Mahratta power caused the destruction of the Mogul empire and spread over the whole of India, who could think that the sun of India's prosperity, which had sunk in the sea of Kshatriya blood on the banks of the Drisatvati, would not rise again? But though the mother of two such heroic races, there was no favourable turn in India's fortunes. Thanks to the boundless power of Fate, the

greatness and glory of India are gone. So it has been with Egypt and Babylon. Persia is in a moribund condition. China, it is only now that you are threatened with destruction, but great countries who were once your old and civilised contemporaries have long since ceased to exist. Even the sun of prosperity which shone on the world-conquering Greece and Rome, European empires though they were, has gone down. But as regards Greece and Rome there is the noteworthy fact that either in virtue of their religious worth in the past or of their white skin, a bright day is again dawning for them. The non-white races that will survive you, will all of them, one after another, have to offer themselves up as a sacrifice before the Powers of Europe. The dolorous cries of the entire world will not remove this passion for war. See you not the god whom Europe adores? the god, at whose feet these European Powers have sacrificed their hatred and animosity and are acting in concert? Europe and America though resounding with the echoes of the Czar's peace proclamation, have yet turned a deaf ear to the piteous cries of the brave, patriotic and liberty loving people who produced a skilful General like Joubert, a mighty warrior like Cronjé, the equal of Napoleon himself, and a statesman like Krüger and whose matchless strategy and extraordinary self-sacrifice in the cause of political independence have startled the world. And the Powers have now combined to compass the destruction of the Chinese empire. What is the value of such preaching of peace and universal goodwill? Instead of labouring in a spirit of unity to avoid and prevent strife and war, and establish peace on earth the Powers have, immediately after the Czar's peace proclamation was made, employed their united armies in the grim work of destruction and desolation. Who can tell what will be the outcome of this unprecedented combination of the great Powers of Europe and America? Who can say that, as a result of this combination, the States which have not yet come under the sway of those Powers will not, one after another, share the fate which now threatens the Chinese empire?

It is under the dispensation of Providence that small detached States gradually lose their separate existence and are merged in one powerful and vast empire and that enfeebled and decaying old races come to seek the protection of new and progressive nations proud of youthful vigour. It is under the dispensation of Providence that country after country and State after State are being brought under the imperial and absolute rule of the European Powers. God only knows when this process of unification will be complete. In the *Dwapar Yuga*, that astute statesman, Sri Krishna, caused the destruction of the many small kingdoms then existing in India and their unification and inclusion in Greater India, in the Indian empire, that is, which acknowledged the king of kings, Yudhisthir as its absolute master. At the present time the whole of India is united and forms the Indian empire of the Empress Victoria. The territorial possessions of the European nations are daily extending all over the world, and divers countries and peoples are being welded together under the flag of every European Power. Providence, it is thus that Thou givest effect to the arrangements pre-ordained by Thyself. At one time there were signs which showed that a still vaster empire would be established under the autocratic sway of Napoleon, that matchless hero and greatest military genius. Thou alone knowest why success did not attend Napoleon's efforts in that behalf. That result was surely due to Thee, whose ways are inscrutable. When will that day arrive when no other State will be left to excite the greed of the European Powers, when their all-devouring greed for territory will be satisfied? Will all strife and war cease and peace be established in the world on that day? And will the earth, from that day, cease to be stained with human blood?

5. The *Nava Yug* [Calcutta] of the 14th July has seen it mentioned that Maharaj Kumar Pradyot Kumar Tagore, President of the British Indian Association, has sent a contribution of £ 800 to the Transvaal War Fund. The

An improper contribution to the Transvaal War Fund.

contribution certainly shows the Maharaj Kumar's incomparable loyalty to the British Government, but he would have done nothing wrong if he had sent no such contribution from India at a time like this when the whole world is sending money to India to relieve the distresses of her famine-stricken people. It is probably in consideration of such acts as that of the Maharaj Kumar that Lord George Hamilton denies the necessity of making any contribution from the Imperial exchequer to the Indian Famine Fund.

NAVA YUG,
July 14th, 1900.

II.—HOME ADMINISTRATION.

(a)—Police.

RANGPUR
DIKPRAKASH,
July 12th, 1900.

6. The *Rangpur Dik Prakash* [Kakina, Rangpur] of the 12th July says that the dismissal of the case in which seventeen or eighteen Musalman and two Hindu *badmashes* were charged with having abducted by force and committed outrage upon the wife of one Braja Das, a resident of Nalsindura within the jurisdiction of the Panga thana, in the Rangpur district, has alarmed and astounded everybody. There is not the least ground for doubt that the outrage was committed by the *badmashes* in question. Braja Das or his wife had no quarrel or enmity with any of them. It is, therefore, impossible to believe that the case was got up simply to get the accused into trouble. The woman, moreover, as soon as she was found out by the police in the house of Barika Nasya, complained to the Sub-Inspector against the accused and told him of the outrage and oppression they had committed upon her.

It is said that the dismissal of the case was brought about by a man who, while acting on behalf of the accused had also contrived to curry himself into the complainant's favour and got the conduct of the prosecution in his hands.

However that may be, the attention of the Magistrate of Rangpur and the Deputy Magistrate of Kurigaon is invited to this case. If the seventeen or eighteen *badmashes*, who were charged in this case, receive no check, they will become bolder, and Rangpur will then soon beat Mymensingh in the matter of outrages on females.

HITAVADI,
July 13th, 1900.

7. The *Hitavadi* [Calcutta] of the 13th July writes as follows:—
An assault by certain Eurasian employes of the Bengal Nagpur Railway. Antony, Smith and Ward, three *topiwalas*, belonging to the Bengal-Nagpur Railway regaled themselves with country rum at a retail grog-shop and were wending their way to the Rajapur Khal station. On the way they came across Punt Methrani and Saurabhi Dasi, a poor widow. They felt a strong desire to enter into an amorous conversation with them. But they did not like the amours of the Eurasians and took to their heels. The Imperial Anglo-Indians resumed their journey, when, as chance would have it, they came across a washerwoman going to fetch water. The Eurasian heroes could not lose this opportunity, and they at once began to cut jokes at her. The washerwoman did not take these jokes well, and seeing that the Eurasians were about to lay their hands on her, she plunged into the water, whereupon her pursuers beat a retreat. The washerwoman acquainted her husband with what had happened, upon which he and his brother came out, abused the Eurasians, and warned them against coming to the village again. A crowd gathered, and seeing this, the brave Eurasians silently and fearlessly took to flight. But they were not the men to submit to such ignominy; so they came back armed with clubs and followed by a large number of coolies, trespassed into the washerman's house and gave his brother a thrashing. Fortunately, however, Kali Rajak did not die of the rupture of spleen, or of stoppage of the heart's action. He has prosecuted the Eurasians in the court of the Subdivisional Officer of Ulubaria.

HITAVADI.

8. A correspondent writes as follows in the same paper:—
The inefficiency of the Bengal police. It is a great relief that the attention of the authorities has been drawn to the recrudescence of crime in the Hooghly, Mymensingh and the 24-Parganas districts, but no one can approve of the policy of writing to the zamindars to instruct their *amla* to co-operate with the police in detecting and putting down crime. In almost all zamindaris, there is some quarrel or other between the zamindars and their *amla* on the one hand and the raiyats on the other. There is no zamindari in which there has been no litigation between the raiyat and the zamindar. This being the case, if the zamindari *amla* are required to help the police in detecting crime, they will only be given an opportunity to harass the raiyat against whom they may have a grudge. The policy of detecting crime with the help of the zamindari *amla* will produce very harmful consequences. The best way to detect and put down crime is to appoint honest, courteous and able men to the police service. As it is, the

police in Bengal are extremely inefficient. Here is a list of offences, which the police have not yet been able to detect:—

- (1) In 1898, there was a dacoity in the house of one Haridas Poddar of village Haripal in the Hooghly district. Haridas Poddar lives close to the local police station. The offenders have not yet been detected.
- (2) In 1899, the young daughter-in-law of Haridas Poddar, of village Takra, in the Hooghly district, was secretly murdered.
- (3) In the same year a daring theft was committed in the house of Sasi-bhusan Bose of village Baladbandh, in the Hooghly district. The offenders have not been arrested through the negligence of the police.
- (4) It is two years since a young child of Nota Suri of Gobardanga, in the Hooghly district, was murdered, and the dead body was thrown into a neighbouring tank. A Musalman was suspected, but nothing has been done since then to trace the offenders.
- (5) In 1898, there was a theft in the house of one Gostha Mallik of Haripal, in the Hooghly district. One Mihilal Bagdi was suspected, but the police took no steps to make him confess his guilt.

9. The *Pratinidhi* [Comilla] of the 17th July complains of petty thefts in Devagram, a village in the Tippera district. The police do not care to detect or put down such thefts. They take no notice of such thefts if the thieves are not arrested by the villagers themselves and handed over to them.

PRATINIDHI,
July 17th, 1900.

10. The *Tripura Hitaishi* [Comilla] of the 17th July says that the residents of Comilla town are not satisfied with the manner in which the town chaukidars are doing their work. Most of these chaukidars, being residents of the place, neglect their public duties to look after their household affairs. It would be better to replace these men by constables brought from other places.

TRIPURA HITAIISHI,
July 17th, 1900.

11. The same paper complains that two or three characterless women have for the last few years taken up their lodgings on the bank of the tank situated on the north of the vernacular school in Mogultuli in the Comilla town. The authorities should not allow these women to remain in the middle of a respectable quarter and so near a school, but should have them removed to the quarter assigned to prostitutes.

TRIPURA HITAIISHI.

(b)—*Working of the Courts.*

12. The *Bikash* [Barisal] of the 10th July complains that Babu Nagendra Nath Gupta, the local Deputy Magistrate, is overworked. The heavy burden of work on his shoulders has shattered his health, and he has been compelled to take leave for seven days. Why is a Deputy Magistrate overworked in this way? The number of Deputy Magistrates in the town should be increased.

BIKASH,
July 10th, 1900.

13. The same paper has the following, with reference to the decision of the High Court, in the case in which Mr. Pittar, the District Judge of Backergunge, forwarded, for orders of the High Court, the record of the proceedings held by him against two pleaders of his court.

BIKASH.

Thanks, Mr. Pittar. Great, indeed, is your intelligence and legal knowledge. But why blame Mr. Pittar? Blame the system, the system under which raw young Civilians, having little insight into legal intricacies and little acquaintance with the manners and customs and language of the people, are made District Judges? What can we expect from such Judges? In England old and experienced barristers are made Judges. But in this country it is otherwise.

These inexperienced Civilians suddenly find themselves transformed into District Judges and hear appeals from the decisions of experienced Munsifs,

Sub-Judges and Deputy Magistrates and criticise the conduct of old and experienced pleaders and barristers.

We do not therefore blame you, Mr. Pittar. You have been ridiculed in the High Court for your strange decision, but we do not blame you. Do not in future interfere with pleaders and barristers.

BARISAL HITAIISHI,
July 11th, 1900.

14. A correspondent of the *Barisal Hitaishi* [Barisal] of the 11th July says that the object with which notices for the sale of immovable properties under Civil Court decrees, in the Backergunge district, were ordered to be published in the local newspapers is being frustrated by the manner in which those notices are drawn up. They simply state the names of the properties without describing them sufficiently to enable people to identify them, when they should contain at least an abstract of the descriptions of the properties which are given in the decree holders' applications for execution of decrees. A specimen of a notice is here given:—

“পরিদর্শনীর পুত্র যুগেন্দ্রী আদালত।

খাং নং ৯৭২

নীতাকান্ত দ্বার চৌধুরী ডিক্রীদার

নীতানথ বন্দ্যোপাধ্যায় দায়িক

১। পরিদর্শনীর কেবলদীন লক্ষীপুরা গং কিং নিবহাওলা দায়িকের জমা ৪৮/১১২।”

The notice does not even state the name of the pargana and the character of the tenure.

It is better not to publish any notice than to publish a notice which is so insufficient.

KHULNA,
July 12th, 1900.

15. The *Khulna* [Khulna] of the 12th July says that Mir Mofazzel Ali and thirteen other residents of village Sonatankatha, within the jurisdiction of the Paikgachha thana in the Khulna district, were summoned by the Deputy Magistrate, Maulvi Mahiuddin Ahmmad, as witnesses in a certain case. But not one of the witnesses having attended court on the appointed day, the Deputy Magistrate charged thirteen of them under section 174 of the Indian Penal Code and sent the record of the case to the District Magistrate, although, as regards five of those persons, the serving peon had submitted returns to the effect that neither they nor any of their adult male relatives being at home at the time of service, the summonses had been served by affixing copies thereof to the walls of their houses. The men, however, had now to come all the way from Sonatankatha to Khulna, a distance of full two days' journey, and each of them had to secure three or four mukhtars to stand sureties for him. Six of them have since been tried and acquitted and the rest are still awaiting their trial.

The case fully illustrates how power may be abused if placed in unworthy hands. Who will compensate the accused in this case for the expense they have incurred in defending themselves?

KHULNA.

16. A correspondent of the same paper says that Babu Uma Charan Rai, Sub-Deputy Magistrate of Bagerhat, in the Khulna district, is the President and Treasurer of a local theatrical company, called the Cleopatra Theatre, composed mostly of the amla of the Civil and Criminal Courts of the place. Lately, the Secretary and some other members of the theatre asked Babu Uma Charan for an account of the income and expenditure of the company. But the Sub-Deputy Babu appears to be supremely indifferent, and shows no inclination to furnish the accounts asked for.

Seeing that this is not the first time that Uma Charan Babu's conduct has had to be brought to the notice of the authorities, one fails to see why the Subdivisional Officer, who knows the Sub-Deputy Babu pretty well, does not move Government for his transfer.

SANJIVANI,
July 12th, 1900.

17. A correspondent of the *Sanjivani* [Calcutta] of the 12th July says that the Joint-Magistrate of Narayanganj, in the Dacca district, passed an order on the 5th July last to the effect that no one wearing *dhuti* and *chudder* should enter his court with shoes on. In consequence of this order, respectable

native gentlemen, dressed in *dhuti* and *chudder*, have to enter his court unshod. The whimsical conduct of this officer has made it difficult for gentlemen, who have to come into his court, to maintain their self-respect, because they are not sure that they will not be abused by him. Everybody is, in fact, in dread of this officer. A few instances will illustrate how he treats those who come into his court:—

(a) One day a man came before him to make some complaint. But he gave him such a rebuke with a magisterial air, that the man remained silent for some time. This was, however, too much for him, and he flung one of his boots at the man. The blow threw the man on the ground.

(b) In the month of June last, while hearing the case of *Bhusai Mal versus Haran Mandabi*, he rose from his seat and struck one of the witnesses with a paper ruler.

(c) In the case of *Sanu versus Faju* and others, he beat and fined a witness on behalf of the prosecution because his deposition before the court differed from the statement he had made before the police.

(d) A municipal overseer having made a report that a certain fisherman was selling rotten fish in Dig Babu's bazar, the Joint-Magistrate went to the spot, and not only fined the fisherman Rs. 4, but had some of the rotten fish forcibly put into his mouth.

His treatment of pleaders and mukhtars is also very bad.

18. A correspondent complains as follows in the *Hitavadi* [Calcutta] of the 13th July:—

The Officiating Deputy Commissioner of Dumka.

Mr. Kingsford, Officiating Deputy Commissioner of Dumka, has not been able to earn the praise of the Dumka public. It is almost useless to appeal to him against the decisions of the lower courts. During the last four months he heard about a hundred appeals, but, except in three or four cases, he upheld the decisions of the lower courts. The reason is that he is not intelligent enough to understand cases, and he is not in the habit of availing himself of the help of pleaders in mastering the intricacies of a case. Mr. Kingsford has practically closed his court against legal practitioners. During the last six months Mr. Kingsford permitted pleaders to appear only in three or four cases. He does not even allow a pleader to appear on behalf of a person who is in jail. In a case in which Mr. Kingsford's predecessor had permitted the accused to engage a pleader to defend him, the Officiating Deputy Commissioner refused to allow the pleader to appear.

In the Sonthal Parganas district the accused do not enjoy the right of defending themselves with the help of pleaders. No pleader is allowed to appear in a case without the previous permission of the court. Deputy Magistrates have not the power to grant this permission, and they have to refer all prayers for such permission to the Deputy Commissioner or to the Subdivisional Officer. In the Lieutenant-Governor's reply to the petitions of Ismail Khan and others, it was said that all Judicial Officers have the power to grant permission to pleaders to appear before them. Here is that reply:—

As regards the appearance of pleaders in the courts of districts, it has already been decided that the present practice shall continue, and that, so long as a pleader appears only by permission of the *presiding Judicial Officer* and as the next friend of the party whom he advises, there is no objection to his employment. Why is not the promise of the Lieutenant-Governor being adhered to? The consequence is that the number of appeals to Bhagalpur is increasing. But all people have not the means to appeal to Bhagalpur.

There is another thing to complain of in connection with the Sonthal Parganas district. The *begar* system is very much prevalent there. Here is an instance: Rampur Hat is 38 miles from Dumka. Magistrates in their journey from one place to another have their carriages drawn by coolies, and the road-contractor has to supply these coolies free of cost.

19. The *Samiran-o-Viswadut* [Calcutta] of the 14th July complains against

Mr. J. N. Gupta, District Magistrate of Malda.

Mr. J. N. Gupta, District Magistrate of Malda. A zamindar of Malda induced some Sonthals to come and settle on his zamindari. Last year he proposed to raise the rent, and the Sonthal raiyats petitioned the Lieutenant-Governor against enhancement. The Lieutenant-Governor referred the matter

HITAVADI,
July 13th, 1900.

SAMIRAN-O-
VISWADUT,
July 14th, 1900.

to the District Magistrate, with the instruction that he should prevent the Sonthals from being oppressed. When the Magistrate was out touring twelve Sonthals came to him. They were ordered to pay rent at a rate twice as high as before. They refused to do so, and the Magistrate ordered their arrest. They were put in prison, and were afterwards enlarged on a bail of Rs. 100 each. They have moved the High Court against this decision.

One fails to understand why the Magistrate passed such a strange order. It does not appear why the Magistrate ordered the raiyats to pay enhanced rent. It is not also clear why, and under what law, they were arrested on refusing to pay enhanced rent. It is said that during the rule of Murshid Kuli Khan, zamindars failing to pay revenue were placed in jail. Raja Krishna Chandra, for instance, was imprisoned by the Nawab for failing to pay revenue. Oppressive zamindars also used, in those days, to imprison recalcitrant raiyats. But this is impossible under British rule. Were the Sonthals guilty of some crime? That does not also appear from the facts of the case. The High Court, however, has ordered a rule to issue against the Magistrate, and the Magistrate has taken leave. There may not, however, be any causal connection between the issue of the rule and the taking of leave.

Dacca *Prakash*,
July 15th, 1900.

20. The *Dacca Prakash* [Dacca] of the 15th July says that Babu Dines Charan Rai, Honorary Magistrate of Manikganj, lately sent a gentleman and his servant to jail under circumstances which would make it impossible for a big zamindar like Dines Babu himself and his amla to keep themselves outside the premises of a jail. The gentleman's offence was that he had bamboos cut on land which he owned in *ijmali* with other co-sharers and on which all the co-sharers had the right to cut away crops according to their respective requirements. It was a glaring failure of justice to punish a man for an offence like this, if offence it was. The appointment of inexperienced men of immature years, as Honorary Magistrates, is frequently leading to the oppression of the people.

Pratibasi,
July 16th, 1900.

21. The *Pratibasi* [Calcutta] of the 16th July has the following:—
In a few recent cases, in which Europeans were implicated, Lord Curzon, not satisfied with the decisions of the Judge and the jury, has declared the accused guilty, after carefully examining the evidence, and has punished them departmentally. In a thoughtful and well-written article, the *Pioneer* expresses the apprehension that by going against the decisions of the Judge and the jury in more than one case, Lord Curzon has established a very bad precedent. It is no doubt desirable that the independence of those who are entrusted with the administration of justice should be rigidly maintained; but, in cases, where miscarriage of justice wounds the feelings of the people and sows the seeds of discontent in their mind, no Viceroy can or should keep himself indifferent and unconcerned. Our contemporary does not deny this, but he says that it is extremely undesirable that the people should be led to form the opinion that the duty, the only duty, of the Viceroy is to constitute himself a Court of Appeal. In the opinion of the *Pioneer*, it is much better that even some murderers should escape than that the Viceroy should frequently interfere with the administration of justice, and thereby shake the confidence of the public in the integrity of our law courts. We do not deny this, but we believe that our wise contemporary will agree with us in holding that the first and foremost duty of the Government is to prevent the impression being formed in the public mind that it is useless to go to law in cases in which Europeans are implicated, that the so-called administration of justice is a delusion, and that English race-partiality is a serious obstacle to a strict administration of justice.

In the *Pioneer's* opinion, the higher court admitted that there was miscarriage of justice in the Rangoon case, and Lord Curzon was well advised and fully justified in interfering in that case. Our contemporary also observes that the decision in this case had so much exasperated the public that they were reassured to see the offenders somehow punished. It is thus quite clear that in the opinion of our contemporary, it is desirable, from the political point of view, to satisfy the public. But he still holds that in some of these cases Lord Curzon has not acted wisely in interfering with the

decisions of the law courts. In the O'Gara case, continues the *Pioneer*, it was not legally proved that the accused had struck the *punkha-cooly* with dumb-bells. This may be inferred from the doctor's certificate on *post-mortem* examination, but it is, after all, a mere inference. Lord Curzon ought not, therefore, to have depended merely on this inference in awarding so serious a punishment to the accused. Neither the court nor the jury had expressed the opinion that the two soldiers, who gave evidence in the case and whom Lord Curzon has punished, were actuated by any intention of screening the accused. It has not been well to declare the witnesses guilty on the strength of mere suspicion and inference.

We have something to say about our contemporary's calling the inference in the case a mere guess. If in a room there are only two persons and one of them receives a cuff in the back, the decision that this cuff has been administered by the other is certainly an inference, but it is an inference which can be safely depended upon. The doctor deposed that the wound inflicted on the head of the deceased was caused by a round object. The Public Prosecutor said that there was no direct evidence of the infliction of the wound. There is very little difference between inferential and direct evidence in this case, and it would be going against conscience to ignore this inferential evidence. Moreover, a Judge is bound, to a certain extent, to respect legal technicalities, but the Viceroy is free. The Judge and the Viceroy are not similarly circumstanced, and their responsibilities also are not similar. The duty of the Judge ends with maintaining the dignity of the court; but the duty of the Viceroy lies in consulting and promoting the welfare of the whole empire. The Viceroy has given proofs of his courage, love of justice, and large-heartedness by not being satisfied with superfine legal technicalities and by maintaining the integrity of justice. The *Pioneer* says that Lord Curzon's conduct will lead the half-educated Bengali Dabus to raise the cry of justice in danger in season and out of season, and to call upon His Excellency to interfere with the decision of the courts in many cases. It is a thing of common experience that in a case in which a European is implicated, the police is almost invariably indifferent in the matter of procuring evidence, and the court does not do justice. It is, therefore, natural that people should apprehend injustice in such cases. The Chapra case has led the public to seriously suspect the impartiality of European Magistrates. Indeed, one is led to infer that the gradual increase in the number of cases in which Europeans are implicated is the natural consequence of laxity in the administration of justice in such cases. Let the *Pioneer* prove that such inference is unfounded. Otherwise this fault-finding with Lord Curzon, under the excuse of legal technicality, will be justly suspected of being an outcome of race animosity.

22. The *Prabhat* [Calcutta] of the 18th July writes as follows:—

The punishment of natives compared with the punishment of Europeans.

A native has been sentenced to two years' rigorous imprisonment for outraging the modesty of a European lady at Ootacamund. The man will now have sufficient leisure to repent of what he has done. A *badmash* who insults a woman or lays violent hands on her, ought to be severely punished; but can we ignore the invidious racial distinction which is made in passing sentences even in such cases? In the Punjab a native assaulted a zanana missionary and was sentenced to transportation for ten or twenty years. But on board a steamer one Webb carried a married native woman to his cabin and ravished her. The woman died a few days after from the effects of the violence; yet the accused was let off with a fine of Rs. 100. What punishment will be inflicted on the three Eurasians, who have been arrested in Ulubaria? What, again, would have been the punishment, if, in the case under notice, the accused had been a European, and the woman assaulted a native? It is the public impression that in a case, in which a European is implicated the native cannot expect justice. And racial distinction breeds racial animosity.

PRABHAT,
July 18th, 1900.

23. Referring to the decision arrived at by Justices Prinsep and Handley

The High Court in a recent case. in an appeal made by one Atul Chandra Mitra, who was convicted of theft by the Presidency Magistrate of Calcutta, the same paper writes as follows:—

PRABHAT.

We cannot approve of this decision. Is it the duty of the High Court to ascertain whether the imprisonment to which an appellant has been

sentenced has been served out or not before it proceeds to judge a case on its merits? The Judges ought to have decided in this case whether the appellant had committed theft or not. If he had been declared "not guilty" a stain would have been removed from his character. The appellant was guilty because he had served out the whole term of his imprisonment, or it was useless to interfere under such circumstances. Such a decision as this is not worthy of an old and experienced Judge like Justice Prinsep.

(d)—Education.

BIKASH,
July 10th, 1900.

24. The *Bikash* [Barisal] of the 10th July complains against the management of the Bhola Luttman-Johnson Muhammadan Boarding, Backergunge district. So long the boarders had to pay a monthly fee of Rs. 4 each, but the Managing Committee has raised the fee, so that the boarding expenses may be fully met from fees. So long a portion of the expenses had been paid from the boarding fund; but the condition of this fund is now said to be very unsatisfactory. The Subdivisional Officer has, however, paid Rs. 275 from this fund to purchase an ice-making machine for the local charitable dispensary on the consideration that the Medical Officer in charge of the dispensary will treat the boarders gratis. Bhola is a healthy place, and there is not much sickness among the boarders. The Subdivisional Officer ought not to have diverted the boarding fund in this way. It is said that the sanction of the Managing Committee to the grant was received after, and not before, the purchase of the machine. This is very bad, indeed.

SANJIVANI,
July 12th, 1900.

25. The *Sanjivani* [Calcutta] of the 12th July says that owing to dissatisfaction expressed by the members of the Provincial Educational Service, the Government has withdrawn the privileges in regard to appointment and promotion which it had offered to distinguished native graduates of English Universities and to Prem Chand Roy Chand students by its order dated the 26th March 1897, and to Post-graduate scholars by its order dated the 13th February 1900. That is good. It is not right to appoint new men to the service in supersession of the claims to promotion of deserving men already in it. But why not appoint Prem Chand Roy Chand students and English graduates to the superior service? They are not inferior in qualification to the Europeans who are appointed to it. By excluding them from the superior service and refusing them special advantages in the Provincial Service, does Government mean to discourage the Indian youth from going to England for education? Is it just that even a Paranjpe or a Balak Ram should not get in India a post worth more than Rs. 150? When will India see a ruler who will trample upon these unjust and unfair rules and open the door to promotion according to merit? Is Lord Curzon such a ruler as India wishes to have?

SANJIVANI.

26. The same paper says that Mr. Subodh Chandra Mahalanavis, who had distinguished himself in Physiology in his University examinations in England, and who served for two years with credit as Professor of Physiology in the Cardiff Medical College, applied to the Secretary of State for India for a post in this country. He was told in reply that his application would be considered when a vacancy occurred. Several vacancies occurred, but he got no appointment. When Dr. Martin was the Director of Public Instruction he offered Mr. Mahalanavis a post worth Rs. 150. Kindness indeed! Englishmen who should hold the candle to Mr. Mahalanavis are getting far higher appointments and he was considered fit only for Rs. 150! Fortunately, Sir John Woodburn knows how to recognise merit, and he has promised Mr. Mahalanavis a post worth Rs. 250, and it is said that he will soon be appointed a Professor in some College. As a proper reward for Mr. Mahalanavis's merit, he ought to have been appointed to some higher post. But it is idle to expect merit to be properly rewarded in a country where men like Dr. Prafulla Chandra Roy and Mr. Devendra Nath Mullick have to spend their lives in the subordinate grades of the Educational Service.

PRATIVASI,
July 16th, 1900.

27. The *Prativasi* [Calcutta] of the 16th July writes as follows:—
We have always tried to draw the attention of the public to the sad want of discipline among the students, which has been brought about by the multiplicity of private schools,

School boy misconduct in Pabna.

which are almost all conducted on commercial lines and which have made education a marketable commodity. Our Pabna correspondent writes that a school-master was lately insulted by some students in a public street. These students do not belong to the Government school. The matter has been brought to the notice of the Officiating School Inspector of the Rajshahi Circle. On the 12th July last there was a good deal of disturbance at night in the school to which the above-mentioned students belong. School benches were found hanging from the branches of a neighbouring tree and the school room was fouled. Nothing pains us like the misconduct of students, but we cannot but hate those who have brought about their moral degradation, who have opened schools to make money—to earn their livelihood. If the authorities of a school punish a bad student, the hungry proprietor of a rival school will admit him to his school. This emboldens students and encourages them in wrong doing. There is a Government school and a college in Pabna, and the two minor schools have been raised to the standard of an Entrance school. There is not the least doubt that if the immorality, which is being encouraged under the excuse of education, be not nipped in the bud, it will spread all over the country.

28. The *Prabhat* [Calcutta] of the 18th July complains that although there is a high English school at Kaikala in the Hooghly district, a rival school has been started in a neighbouring village, most probably with the object of ruining the Kaikala School. There is no room for a new school so near the old one. It is hoped that the Inspector will look into the matter.

PRABHAT,
July 18th, 1900.

(c)—*Local Self-Government and Municipal Administration.*

29. The *Som Prakash* [Calcutta] of the 2nd July says that the stringent provisions made in the new municipal law of Calcutta regarding the construction of houses were certainly dictated by a desire on the part of the Legislature to improve the health of the residents. But will only living in good houses improve the health of the residents? Are not conservancy and water-supply more important factors in the town's health? If so, has anything been done to improve either the conservancy or the water-supply of the town since the enforcement of the new Act? Any one who has known the condition of the native quarter of the town, as it has been of late, will doubt if there is a municipality at all in Calcutta. Formerly, every street and lane in Calcutta used to be carefully swept and more or less watered, and refuse and sweepings were regularly removed therefrom. But very different has been the state of things for the last few months. The lanes and narrow paths are now not at all swept or watered, and the refuse deposited therein are not regularly removed. The stench proceeding from accumulated filth has become a source of danger to the health of the residents. The water-supply, too, is so insufficient as hardly to meet the requirements of the rate-payers.

SGM PRAKASH,
July 2nd, 1900.

Even in the matter of house construction, the municipal authorities do not seem to be strictly carrying out the provisions of the new law, because new houses are being constructed everywhere in the town evidently in defiance of those provisions.

30. Referring to the appointment of official Chairmen to some of the important municipalities in Bengal, the *Burdwan Sanjivani* [Burdwan] of the 10th July writes as follows:—

BURDWAN SANJIVANI,
July 10th, 1900.

When it was proposed to appoint an official Chairman to the Burdwan Municipality, we thought that the step was being taken in order to put a check on such quarrels between the Commissioners and the non-official Chairman as had taken place in the past. But a doubt arose in our mind about the real object of the Government, when we saw that not only in Burdwan, but in many other big towns also, Government was appointing official Municipal Chairmen. Why such a course should be taken after non-official Chairmen had done their work so long with credit is quite inexplicable to us. Is the number of men competent to discharge the duties of Municipal Chairman gradually becoming smaller in the country? Certainly not. The number of

competent men is rather increasing in the country. Are, then, good men unwilling to make the sacrifice which is required of all who would serve their countrymen? Not so, because we know that many good men are now actually serving the country at a personal sacrifice and many more are quite ready and willing to do so. What is it then that has made it necessary for Government to substitute official for non-official Chairmen in the mufassal municipalities? Three causes, so far as we can see, have made this a necessity. First, owing to faulty election rules, respectable men do not come forward as candidates for election as commissioners, and there is accordingly a dearth of such men in the municipal boards. Secondly, Government does not always use proper discrimination in nominating members to the municipal boards. It often appoints men who are either incompetent, or who though competent, are so busy with their own affairs that they can spare little time for doing public duties. Thirdly, in the present state of the law, it is impossible for commissioners of municipalities and members of District Boards always to act with independence; and there are instances in which independent members have incurred the displeasure of the District Officer and have come to trouble. These are the causes which keep really good and competent men out of the Municipal and District Boards. We do not know if there are any other causes at work to produce this result. Whatever the cause, it is a regrettable fact that there is at present a paucity of really competent men in the municipalities. The Government can remedy this, if it likes. It would be better to abolish Local Self-Government than to keep up a semblance of it under which the official Chairman will do as he pleases with the assistance of men who will do as he desires.

(g)—*Railways and communications, including canals and irrigation.*

BURDWAN SANJIVANI,
July 10th, 1900.

31. The *Burdwan Sanjivani* [Burdwan] of the 10th July has heard that Repair, &c., of village roads in the Burdwan District Board will not this year grant any money for the repair and construction of village roads, because the Chairman is under the impression that money granted for this purpose is not put to a proper use. The question has been discussed more than once, and on several occasions it was proposed to stop the grant. The Government of Bengal, however, did not allow this to be done. It distinctly said that the villagers who pay the road cess should be allowed the benefit of their payment. Why the Burdwan District Board is going against the explicit orders of the Government is not at all clear. The repair of only the feeder roads, for which money will be granted, will benefit a very small section of the village population.

As every new Chairman who comes issues new rules, it is necessary that in these matters Government should not depend either on the Chairman or on the Divisional Commissioner. A resolution should be issued settling once for all the question whether village roads should or should not be repaired and constructed from the road cess fund.

MEDINI BANDHAV,
July 11th, 1900.

32. The *Medini Bandhav* [Midnapore] of the 11th July says that on the occasion of the late Car festival special trains made up of passenger carriages and goods waggons were run for about ten or twelve days between Khargapur and Puri on the Bengal-Nagpur Railway for carrying pilgrims to and from the temple of Jagannath. The sufferings of the passengers who had to travel in goods waggons must have been very acute, as is clearly proved by the fact that in every waggon which carried passengers four, five or six people were found suffering from cholera and even one or two dead bodies were seen. A correspondent of this paper saw these things with his own eyes. There was no outbreak of cholera or death among the pilgrims who were fortunate enough to be accommodated in passenger carriages. The authorities of the railway ought to make an enquiry and take steps to prevent similar occurrences in future.

SRI SRI VISHNU
PRIYA-O-
ANANDA BASAR
PATRIKA,
July 11th, 1900.

33. The *Sri Sri Vishnu Priya-o-Ananda Basar Patrika* [Calcutta] of the 11th July says that the native employes of the Eastern Bengal State Railway, who serve at Chitpur, Rathtala, and Mir Bahar Ghat, in Calcutta, mostly receive poor salaries ranging from Rs. 10 to Rs. 30 a month, and are granted no holidays, and have also to work day and night. It is not clear why

these men, who are Government servants, are not allowed the gazetted holidays or given extra allowance for working on such days or during extra hours. They ought also to get some increment of salary at the end of every year. Lord Curzon should kindly take the case of these men into his favourable consideration.

34. The *Tripura Hitaishi* [Comilla] of the 17th July says that the commencement of metalling work on a large number of roads in Comilla town at one and the same time has been causing serious inconvenience to public traffic. The work was taken in hand two months ago and has not yet been finished. It is not also being done in a satisfactory manner. According to the terms of the contract, the metal should have consisted of two-thirds *jhamu* and one-third *khoa* of the first quality. But it is doubtful if the contractor is giving more than half *jhamu*. The *khoa*, too, is not always of the first quality. Rubbish is being thrown over the metal, before the metal has been well pressed down. Attention is drawn to the work done on the Hyme's Road and the Kandirpur Road. As the Municipal Overseer is a new inexperienced man, some of the Commissioners themselves ought to supervise the work done by the contractor.

TRIPURA HITAIISHI,
July 17th, 1900.

(h)—General.

35. The *Sevika* [Diamond Harbour] for Jyaistha, 1307 B.S., says that though Government was anxious to make the census of 1891 as faultless and accurate as possible, and spared neither pains nor money to make it such, it is a matter of regret that it did not fully succeed. Errors crept in, of which one is pointed out below. In the provincial caste tables attached to the Census Report for 1891, the four distinct classes of Kaivartas in Bengal, namely, (1) those descended from a Kshatriya father and Vaisya mother, (2) those descended from a *nisadh* (hunter) and a Aygati mother, (3) those descended from a Keverini mother and a goldsmith father, and (4) those who, though descended from a Kshatriya father and a Vaisya mother, have yet become a distinct class by themselves on account of their pursuing the low calling of fishermen, have been all grouped under the same heading "Kaivarta." This is not as it should have been. It is hoped that in the taking of the next census in March 1901, the first of the above classes, which in several districts includes the subclasses—Halik Das, Parasar Das, Mahisya Das, Mahisya, Akshata Das, Halik Kaivarta, Uttar-Rarhi Kaivarta and Dakshin-Rarhi Kaivarta, will be grouped under a separate heading, "Mahisya," whilst the remaining three classes of Kaivartas may be grouped, as hitherto, under the same general heading 'Kaivarta.'

SEVIKA,
Jyaistha, 1307 B.S.

Mr. Risley, the present census Commissioner, is not only a learned man but an ethnologist, and it is hoped that he will introduce this change in his census report. It will make his report more accurate than any previous census report.

36. The *Medini Bandhav* [Midnapore] of the 11th July says that the complaint made against the Midnapore town post office in the issue of this paper for the 4th April last (Report on Native Papers for 14th April, paragraph 42) attracted the notice of the Postmaster General, Bengal, and he directed the Postal Superintendent of the Midnapore district to remove the evils complained of. Unfortunately nothing has yet been done to remove the evils. Nay, matters have become worse than before in certain respects. It is hoped the Postal Superintendent of Midnapore will take steps to remove the inconvenience of the public.

MEDINI BANDHAV,
July 11th, 1900.

37. A correspondent of the *Sri Sri Vishnu Priya-o-Ananda Bazar Patrika* [Calcutta] of the 11th July has heard that the new Postmaster of Raerkathi often gets his work done by the late Postmaster, who was dismissed by the Postmaster-General in consequence of a complaint published against him in this paper.

SRI SRI VISHNU
PRIYA-O-
ANANDA BAZAR
PATRIKA,
July 11th, 1900.

38. A correspondent, who is a friend of the editor, thus complains against Dr. J. Kelly, Civil Medical Officer of Naya Dumka, in the *Hitavadi* [Calcutta] of the 13th July:—

HITAVADI,
July 13th, 1900.

Dr. J. Kelly, Civil Medical
Officer, Dumka.

Arriving at Naya Dumka, I find that Dr. Kelly has made Dumka too hot for its residents. Thanks to his vigilance, it

has become almost impossible for people to repair their houses even in this rainy season. If he sees the tiles of a roadside hut removed from its thatch with the object of being re-arranged, he at once orders the stopping of the repair. If any one ventures to ask the reason of the order, he orders the removal of the house a few feet from the roadside or the demolition of the roadside verandah. Many people have been inconvenienced in this way. They appealed to the Subdivisional Officer against the Civil Medical Officer's decision, but in vain. They have been compelled either to demolish their houses or to postpone repairs. The doctor's order does not, however, apply to those who can earn his favour by flattery and other means. They are allowed to build even new houses close to the public roads. This does not, in the doctor's opinion, prejudicially affect the sanitation of the town.

Babu Mahananda Singh of Dumka seems to have incurred the serious displeasure of Dr. Kelly, and Dr. Kelly has been harassing him in many ways. Lately, he applied to the Subdivisional Officer for permission to repair a roadside house. He applied once, twice, thrice without receiving any answer. He applied again, and this time the Subdivisional Officer called for a report from the Civil Medical Officer. The Civil Medical Officer submitted the following report:—

REPORT.

1. This man has gone in for systematic encroachment for years, and has been punished more than once by the Dumka Court for encroachments on the Bhagalpur Road and made to dismantle and remove such encroachments. On the last occasion the charge was withdrawn on a promise not to encroach again. He went so far as to cut large roots of one of the roadside trees to further his place. The roadside trees formed the boundary of this road, and all houses should be behind this level.

2. There can be no objection to repair the *chuppur* on Jail Road, provided the level does not extend beyond the level of existing houses.

3. Mr. Grant, the zamindar, only this winter dispossessed this man of land on the other side of the road for encroachment.

J. KELLY.

The 15th May 1900.

Mahananda Babu denies the charge brought against him. He says that he was never punished for encroaching upon a public road. It is not also true that the zamindar dispossessed him of any land for encroachment. The fact is that he was fencing in a garden, against which Dr. Kelly reported to his zamindar, and the zamindar paid him Rs. 20 as consideration for giving up his claim to that land.

Why did the Medical Officer make uncalled for remarks in his report? Was not the second paragraph of his report enough for his purpose? Why did he try to poison the mind of the Subdivisional Officer by bringing false charges against him? Why is he so very displeased with Mahananda Babu? The Civil Medical Officer's grudge against Mahananda Babu seems to be a long-standing one. The late Subdivisional Officer once asked him to pay a subscription of Rs. 50 for a public purpose. Mahananda Babu said that he could not afford to pay this subscription. Upon this he was prosecuted on the charge of keeping an insanitary cowshed from which filthy water was flowing out on the public road. Dr. Kelly, who prosecuted, had, however, to admit that the cowshed was filthy, but no filthy water was flowing out from it, as stated. But still the charge was pressed, and the Subdivisional Officer instructed the trying Magistrate to punish the accused severely. "The man," wrote he, "is a respectable man. An example should be made of him." The case was tried by Maulvi Ekram Hosain, who fined the accused Rs. 40. The fine, however, was reduced to Rs. 10 on appeal to the Deputy Commissioner. Mahananda Babu is going to be harassed again. An inner privy in his house is going to be demolished. There are such privies in other houses. But it is only Mahananda Babu's privy that is going to be demolished. Why is this so? Is Mahananda Babu living outside the jurisdiction of the British *raj*?

39. The same paper writes as follows:—

The Munda affair.

Will the oppression of Mundas not cease until they are extirpated? The charges against the Mundas seem to be endless. Endless also seems to be the oppression committed upon them. It is said that even the officials are dead against them. Is there no one who can publish the history of the whole affair together with the cause of the official displeasure which the Mundas have incurred?

HITAVADI,
July 13th, 1900.

40. The same paper understands that the pension rules are going to be

The rumoured revision of pension rules.

revised. It is said that Lord Curzon has proposed to reduce the age limit for pension by five years. A Government servant will, according to the proposed rules, be entitled to a full pension after twenty-five years' service, or after twenty years' service with a medical certificate. This is, indeed, good news, and thousands of poor people will pray for Lord Curzon's long life.

HITAVADI.

41. A correspondent complains in the *Pratinidhi* [Comilla] of the 17th July of irregularity in postal delivery in Durgapur,

A postal complaint.

a village within the jurisdiction of the Chandpur subdivision of the Tippera district. The post office is situated at a distance of about seven miles and the postal peon pays a visit to the village only once a week. The inconvenience can be removed by placing the post office in a central position.

PRATINIDHI,
July 17th, 1900.

V.—PROSPECTS OF THE CROPS AND CONDITION OF THE PEOPLE.

42. The *Hitavadi* [Calcutta] of the 13th July has the following:—

Famine in India—its cause.

It is a regret that Lord George Hamilton, although he is the Secretary of State for India, should be so grievously in the dark as regards the famine in India, and should be unable to acquaint the British public with real facts concerning the famine. In his opinion, the measures which have already been adopted to relieve the famine-stricken are adequate for the purpose. In many relief camps, says the Secretary of State, there has been an outbreak of cholera and small-pox, and it is to these two causes that the high rate of mortality among the famine-stricken is due. Indeed, the rate of mortality is so high that a very large number of corpses could not even be cremated, and were left on the public roads to be devoured by jackals and vultures. We can, however, quote the testimony of sympathetic Europeans against these statements of the Secretary of State. They say that there is no want of food in the country, no want of communications; yet thousands are dying even in places where there is no outbreak of cholera or small-pox, simply because they have no money to buy food with. Has the Secretary of State ascertained whether these statements are correct or not?

The Hon'ble Mr. Donald Smeaton, the distinguished Famine Commissioner, was, during his tour through Southern India, struck by the condition of the country. Everywhere water scarcity met his eye. The whole country appeared to be barren and uninhabited and looked like a wide arid desert. And this is India, bountiful India, India with her green verdure, unfailing water, and wealth of fruits! It is poverty which is the cause of our distress, it is the want of money which is the cause of all our suffering. Those who are dying from starvation are escaping from suffering. But as for those weak and emaciated people, who survive the famine, who have lost all their belongings, who will remove their suffering? Who will bring strength to their body and hope to their heart?

Is it beyond the comprehension of the Government that the Indian people are ground-down by taxation, that they can no longer bear this heavy burden, and that groaning under this heavy burden of taxation, they can ill-afford to save anything against the rainy day? The Indian people have to pay taxes at every step. They have to pay a tax for the little salt they eat, for the pasture on which they graze their cattle, for the roads on which they walk. Formerly when the people had barns full of rice and houses stocked with the yield of their farms, money was not so plentiful as now. But wants have now multiplied, and with wants suffering has increased. If rains fail a single year, there is wailing in every peasant's home. How piteous, indeed, is the present condition of the country!

HITAVADI,
July 13th, 1900.

The Government is trying to relieve the distress of the famine-stricken, but what has it done to save the poverty-stricken, tax-ridden Indian peasants? How will the survivors of the famine fare? Alas! There is no exemption from taxation even in this distress. The Indian peasant is not given to luxury. He wastes nothing on drinking. It is the demand of the stomach, the demand of the *mahajan*, and the demand of the tax-collector, which he has to meet, and great is his difficulty in meeting these demands. The fertility of the soil is diminishing, and the sole consideration of the Indian peasant seems to be to grow such crops as will bring in the quickest return. It has become almost impossible for him to increase the fertility of the soil. The *mahajan* is not the cause of the impoverishment of the raiyat. It is the poverty of the Indian raiyat which is the cause of the appearance of the *mahajan*. The Government has not yet been able to remove the cause of Indian poverty.

Who is responsible for this state of things? The Indian raiyat is without food; he does not know how to satisfy his hunger. One need not be told that it is under British rule that the Indian peasants have arrived at this condition. Before the establishment of British rule the wealth of the country was not carried off from the country, the burden of taxation was not so heavy, there was no foreign commerce. The wants of the people also were few. Since the establishment of British rule the produce of the country is being exported, the people are being ground down by taxation, and the wants of the people are increasing. Famine or no famine, scarcity or no scarcity, the Government will not stop or interfere with the exportation of grains. It will not also exempt raiyats from taxation.

The impoverishment of the Indian peasant is causing us great anxiety. The Indian peasant is suffering great hardship. He labours hard in his field yet, but is weak and shabby and ragged. He does not know luxury; he is not given to intoxication; yet his condition is not improved. Is no one responsible for this? The famine over, let the Government appoint a Commission to enquire into the causes of the miserable condition of the raiyats and to devise means for its improvement.

VI.—MISCELLANEOUS.

SANJIVANI,
July 12th, 1900.

43. A Bogra correspondent of the *Sanjivani* [Calcutta] of the 12th July says that the Magistrate of Bogra called a public meeting, and is otherwise doing his utmost to raise money by subscription for according the Lieutenant-Governor a suitable reception, and it is expected that not less than Rs. 17,000 to Rs. 18,000 will be collected. But instead of wasting so large a sum of money on ephemeral decorations and illuminations, the best portion of it should be made over to the Indian Famine Fund. When Sir Charles Elliott visited Bogra, he asked the District Magistrate to devote a portion of the money, which had been raised for his reception, to some useful purpose.

SAMIRAN-O-
VISWADUT,
July 14th, 1900.

44. The *Samiran-o-Viswadut* [Calcutta] of the 14th July has the following with reference to the story of Lady Northcote distributing famine relief:—

We fail to express our feeling; it is too deep for expression. But Lady Northcote does not desire to be praised. The satisfaction derived from relieving the distress of the poor is her best reward. Let us pray that she may always relieve the distress of the poor and always enjoy that satisfaction.

SAMIRAN-O-
VISWADUT.

45. The same paper strongly disapproves of the proposal to spend Rs. 10,000 on illumination and fireworks on the occasion of the Lieutenant-Governor's coming visit to Gaya. There is distress almost everywhere in the country, and thousands are dying from starvation. Could not loyalty be shown without wasting money? Would not the Lieutenant-Governor's visit be better celebrated by feeding hungry people? We believe the Lieutenant-Governor will not approve of such waste of money in these days of distress.

PRATIVASI,
July 16th, 1900

46. The *Prativasi* [Calcutta] of the 16th July writes as follows:—

The Gaya correspondent of the *Statesman* writes that Rs. 10,000 will be spent on the occasion of the Lieutenant-Governor's visit to Gaya.

in August. After this, who shall say that there is famine in the country? We cannot believe that the kindhearted Sir John Woodburn will approve of this waste of money when the country is in such distress. By the way, what is the Gays contribution to the Famine Fund?

47. The *Dacca Gazette* [Dacca] of the 16th July writes as follows:—

DACCA GAZETTE,
July 16th, 1900.

A change for the worse. We were in the habit of boasting that life, property, and honour are perfectly safe under British rule. That was really so. In India, the richest man in his palace and the beggar in his hut enjoyed equal security of life and property. Thefts and dacoities had become almost unknown. There was no oppression of the weak by the strong, and no one dared outrage a woman's modesty. In a word, the Indians felt as if they were living under their ideal ruler Ram. But within the last few years a serious change has come over the country. People now feel as if they have been rudely shaken out of a happy dream. Everything seems to have turned topsy-turvy. Violence, oppression, and outrage are daily increasing. The strong are oppressing the weak. Women are unable to keep their honour inviolate. Failure of justice in the law courts is of frequent occurrence. The Bench and the Bar are frequently falling out against each other. And the police instead of being our protectors have become our oppressors.

Has anybody paused to enquire into the cause of this change? A little reflection will convince anybody that the principal cause of this dreadful change is want of confidence between the rulers and the ruled. In times gone by high officials of Government placed trust in the subject-people, and in the latter's troubles and dangers stood by them as their *ma bap* and inspired them with hope and courage. But it was in an evil moment that the Ilbert Bill was passed, for since the passing of that measure the officials have looked upon the people of the country with distrust, with the feeling with which a serpent regards a mongoose. That feeling of suspicion and distrust has gone on increasing, and has at last brought the country to its present deplorable condition. As a consequence of this official distrust of the people, there has arisen a strong *corps de esprit* between the highest local authority say a Divisional Commissioner, and the commonest constable. If you attempt to check a constable in his career of oppression, you will see him taken by the Commissioner under his sheltering wings. You will not of course see this in every such case. Many highminded officials still uphold the cause of truth and justice. But the number of officials of this noble stamp is daily decreasing.

Formerly perfect harmony existed between the Bench and the Bar. It is a matter of pride that the Bench in this country is filled by men of spotless character, whose equals are rare in any other country. But, unhappily, many unworthy men have found their way to the Bench and are disgracing it. Quarrels between the Bench and the Bar are now every-day occurrences.

48. A correspondent of the *Dainik Chandrika* [Calcutta] of the 18th July, for whose opinions expressed in the following letter the editor does not hold himself responsible, writes

D. INIK CHANDRIKA
July 18th, 1900.

Eurasian highhandedness.
as follows:—

The natives may somehow put up with oppression committed on them by genuine Europeans, but they are afraid their oppression by the Eurasians in the country will compel them to leave their beloved Calcutta and seek refuge in forests or mountain caves. These Eurasians have, at least for seven generations past, lived in the stinking *bustis* situated in the outskirts of Colinga, Bow Bazar, and Jaun Bazar, occupying brick-built hovels and passing their days in misery and destitution. To earn their livelihood they find it necessary to accept the posts of sardars of coolies, inspectors of goods at jetties, engine-drivers, and drivers and syces under the Tramways Company, posts which carry a monthly salary of ten to fifteen rupees. It is the natives' great good fortune that these Eurasians have never visited Europe, the birthplace of their mother's paternal great-grandmother's paternal grandmother as that would have made them still more highhanded. What right-minded man does not hate them? These men consider the natives as even worse than brutes, and look down upon them and oppress them. The only proof of their being Europeans is that they wear a head covering and a coat and shoes. Attired in this way, they walk the streets like heroes, and whenever they see a native strike

him with their cane, which is worth only two pice, or give him a blow or a kick which often proves fatal. Their names sound something like Andrew Pedrae, &c., and they must, therefore, be Imperial Anglo-Indians, above all law and free to commit murder after murder with impunity. What is this that matters have come to? What has become of the Eurasian whose blow caused the death of a strong and active Bengali youth at Dharamtala? Who does not receive with suspicion the evidence of the doctor who made the *post-mortem* examination in that case?

The correspondent then proceeds to condemn the aggressive attitude of the Eurasians in tram-cars, and takes the educated Bengalis severely to task for their cowardly acquiescence in the unwarrantable assumption of superiority which marks the conduct of Eurasians whenever they come in contact with the natives of the country.

URIYA PAPERS.

SAMBALPUR
HITAISHINI,
June 27th, 1900.

49. The *Sambalpur Hitaishini* [Bamra] of the 27th June is glad to notice the liberality of the Raja of Karial and his son in dealing with their famished subjects. They have remitted revenue to the extent of Rs. 8,000, and have advanced Rs. 14,000 to those who want to purchase cattle, plough-shares, &c. They are also bringing down food-grains from Raipur with the object of distributing the same amongst the helpless and the needy. The writer observes that the Government should encourage the noble endeavours of the Raja and his worthy son by conferring suitable titles on them.

The Raja of Karial's treatment of the famine among his subjects.

SAMBALPUR
HITAISHINI.

50. Referring to the rigorous rules which the Government of India are framing regarding the passes issued to European soldiers for the use of sporting guns in rural areas, the same paper points out that this will hardly meet the requirements of the case, so long as unalloyed justice is not administered to the Indians and Europeans alike, without distinction of race, creed or caste.

Sporting passes for European soldiers.

SAMBALPUR
HITAISHINI.

51. Referring to the ruling that the dead bodies of all girls, whose age does not exceed sixteen, in the Nadia district, and who commit suicide, will be sent to the doctors by the police for *post-mortem* examination, the same paper points out that it is unwise to arm the police with greater powers than they now possess so long as the members of that department are not recruited from a better class of men. The writer contends that the framers of the ruling have overlooked the great social objection which both the Hindus and the Muhammadans entertain against the examination of the female members of their societies, whether living or dead, by foreigners, and observes that it is bad policy to court discontent and disaffection by unwise and injudicious rulings of doubtful value.

Additional powers given to the police in the Nadia district.

URIYA AND
NAVASAMVAD,
June 27th, 1900.

52. The *Uriya and Navasamvad* [Balasore] of the 27th June exhorts the people of Balasore to come forward boldly to contribute their mite towards the famine fund and to disregard the selfish doctrine that the people of one district are not bound to help the poor and famished of other districts.

A famine appeal.

SAMVADVAHIKA,
June 28th, 1900.

53. The *Samvadvahika* [Balasore] of the 28th June is sorry to notice five deaths due to thunder-stroke in a single season, and states that some of these deaths happened under extraordinary circumstances.

Deaths from thunder-strokes.

UTKALDIPIKA,
July 23rd, 1900.

54. The *Utkaldipika* [Cuttack] of the 23rd June is glad to find that the occupation of Pretoria by the British was celebrated in due form in different parts of Orissa, especially in Puri, by the Indians. The proceedings of the celebration were characterised by a loud outburst of loyal feelings, culminating in a devout prayer for the long life of Her Imperial Majesty.

Pretoria celebration in Orissa.

55. The *Utkaldipika* [Cuttack] of the 30th June strongly objects to the destruction of salt in the Puri godowns by Government, and observes that such an important and necessary article of food should be sold to the public at moderate prices.

UTKALDIPIKA,
June 30th, 1900.

56. The same paper is informed that the report of the Welby Commission is under the consideration of the Home Government and hopes that India will be benefited by the final decision of that Government.

UTKALDIPIKA.

CHUNDER NATH BOSE,

Bengali Translator.

BENGALI TRANSLATOR'S OFFICE,
The 21st July, 1900.

50. The same paper is informed that the report of the Welby Commission is under the consideration of the Home Government and hopes that it will be sanctioned by the final decision of that Government.

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FROM ITAM JISC/AM

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